more awful in its consequences than the loss of the Phœnix, or the fall of the suspension bridge."——At Eye, near Peterborough, on the 11th instant, the foundation stone of a new church was laid, in the usual form, by the bishop of the diocese.——The new church of St. John, at Wednesbury, was consecrated by the Bishop of Lichfield on the 13th instant. It consists of a lofty nave with side aisles and a detached tower (and spire, to cost 500*l.*) It is built in the style of the 13th century, and is 130 feet in length, from the west to the extreme end of the chancel; and 53 feet in width. The seats are all open, and above one half are free and unappropriated for ever. The principal features are the coupled lancet windows in the aisles, having foliated capitals between them; also a triple lancet window at the east end of an elevated chancel, and a nave 50 feet high, with open roof and ornamental timbers. The font is in character with the church, and was presented by the architect, Mr. S. W. Daukes, of Cheltenham. The communion plate, chancel drapery, and oak chairs, harmonize with the building.——Another new stained-glass window, the gift of the Rev. E. B. Sparke, has been put up in the north transept of Ely Cathedral. The subjects are the stoning of Stephen, and the conversion of Saul. The interior of the great western tower has been thrown open, and much of the original work restored. By the removal of some masonry the sig-zag mouldings of the original arches that support the tower have been displayed.——A powerful organ has been recently presented to Holy Trinity Church, Barnstaple, by the Rev. John Scott.——The foundation stone of a new Wesleyan College was laid a few days ago in the parish of Trull. The area of the building, with its lawns and shrubberies, is to extend over a space of about six acres of land. Mr. Wilson, of Bath, is the architect; Mr. Mason, of Exeter, is the contractor, and has undertaken the whole work for little more than 5,000*l.*——Sir Isaac Lyon Goldsmid has given a piece of land at Preston, near Brighton, as the site for a new church. "It is to be wished," says our informant, "that all Christians were as liberal towards each other."——Mr. John Silliant, of Coombe, near Crediton, has offered to give the sum of 500*l.* towards the erection of a church at Knowle, about four miles to the west of Crediton, on condition that the Crediton Church Corporation advance a sufficient sum to complete the building.——A stained glass window, by Bell, of Bristol, has been presented to St. George's Church, Tiverton, by Miss Walker, of that town. The subject is St. Andrew with the cross.——A district church in the parish of Tiverton, Devon, has originated in the zeal of an honest yeoman of the neighbourhood, who offered the land, the stone, a considerable portion of the cartage, and 200*l.* towards the work. He set the things in order, but he was not permitted to see the building commenced. His sons are treading in their father's steps: the foundations have been laid, and the building is in progress. "The Bishop of Exeter," says the *Quarterly Report of the Diocesan Architectural Society*, "in his late visitation, went to view the spot. He had previously taken great interest in the work, and he could not refrain, before those who were present, from contrasting the very humble dwelling of the chief founders, with the chaste and beautiful designs for the house of God which they were raising."——The works at the Norman Tower, at Bury, have now arrived at a critical point in their progress—the very worst fissures—those on the east side, from the second to the third tier of arches, having been laid open through the whole substance of the masonry. Before this was done, it was necessary to slip down to this level the temporary iron band (the two upper chain ties being permanently fixed), and to secure the middle jamb by chains and irons from the opposite side. The arches have now been turned afresh in Roman cement, with which material the whole of the masonry in the chasms will be worked; and when this part of the structure is restored to its pristine solidity, the formidable work of taking out the great arch may be encountered. It is remarked in the *Ipswich Journal*, that, "could it be conceived how firm and enduring a national monument of antiquity is thus being preserved, we think the good taste of many would induce them to augment the funds of the Norman Tower Committee, in order that all inharmonious obstacles to the fair exhibition of this building might be removed."—— In the church at Preston-Bisset, Bucks, a piscina and brasses have been cleansed, and an arch and shelf, probably the credence table, have been discovered.——A new stained glass window has been placed in the church of Lostwithiel, in Cornwall, by Mr. William Westlake, in memory of his deceased wife.——The great Roman Catholic Chapel of Waterford, in Baron Strand-street, is supposed to be one of the largest buildings in Ireland, and is capable of accommodating 14,000 people. It was built in 1793, at an expense of 20,000*l.*, which was raised chiefly by collections of halfpence at the chapel door.

ANCIENT GLASS.

At a meeting of the Freemasons of the Church on the 12th inst., the secretary read a letter from Mr. J. Wykeham Archer, relative to the house of the poet Milton, in London, and urging the college to take steps for preserving this interesting relic from its impending fate. Some communications were also read from Mr. Wright, with regard to the present inefficient means for showing Westminster Abbey. Mr. George Isaacs then delivered a lecture "On ancient glass as applied to vessels and other domestic purposes," tracing his subject from the earliest known records, and carrying it forward to the close of the 17th century. After controverting the theory founded on a passage in the book of Job, xxxvii. 18, and shewing how glass had been confounded with the obsidian stone, so plentiful in Ethiopia, he alluded to the arts of forming and colouring glass vessels among the Egyptians, explained the nature of their manufacture, and described many of the finest known specimens in existence. Following the art through Tyre, Sidon, and Etruria, he proceeded to the period of Greek art, on which he dwelt at some length, adverting to the Portland vase, some specimens in the Bibliothèque Royale, and those exhibited at the last meeting by the Earl Cadogan, in all of which examples, it seems conclusively demonstrated that the glass was blown of two colours, viz., of deep purple coated with white, and that out of the exterior surface were carved those exquisite bas-reliefs, which, from their extraordinary delicacy and precision, have been an enigma to antiquaries of considerable authority. A wonderful specimen of Greek art, in the possession of Mr. Henly, was then described, having a series of gold figures burnt in from the interior of the vessel, and some curious historical information was given on the subject of malleable glass from Dion Cassius, Petronius, Arbiter, and Isidorus, Ibn Abd Alhokim, Neri, and many other writers. Among Roman glass, the vase of the birth of Bacchus, in Baron Lionel de Rothschild's collection, a specimen possessed by Mr. Roussel, of Paris, and other extraordinary pieces, were cited in chronological order. Nor would it be an outrageous hypothesis, observed Mr. Isaacs, to suppose that the art never became entirely extinct, but was continued to a certain extent through the middle ages down to its perfection at Murano in the 16th century. For the mediæval period, some remarkable extracts were given from old authors and chroniclers, and an explanation offered of the early grotesque vessels, called Bourrabaquins. Then followed the Vitro di Trina, frost glass, cornaline, and many other kinds, of all of which specimens were on the table.

THE PADDINGTON HOSPITAL.

Sir,—Although not in general disposed to afford an explanation in answer to anonymous critics, yet as I have been requested to take some notice of the observations respecting St. Mary's (Paddington) Hospital, in the last number of The Builder, I beg to state that the delay in the building has been caused by the unfortunate death of Mr. Winsland, the contractor for the second portion of the building. The difficulties occasioned by that event are now removed, and the works have been resumed.

I remain, Sir, &c.,

George Russell Frenoh.

18th May, 1846.

LIST OF NEW PATENTS

RELATING TO ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, &c. GRANTED FOR ENGLAND.

Furnished by Mr. A. Prince, of the Office for Patents of Inventions, Lincoln's-inn Fields, London.

[SIX MONTHS FOR ENROLMENT.]

William Spiby, of Carrington, Nottingham, engineer, for improvements in the construction of furnaces used for heating water and other fluids. April 1.

George Lewis, of High Cross-street, Leicester, locksmith, for improvements in the construction of shutters and blinds for windows and doors, and in the construction of doors. April 7.

James Allingham, of Dublin, gent. and James William McGaulay, clerk, of Dublin, aforesaid, for certain improvements in steam engines. April 7.

Joseph Bunnett, of Deptford, engineer, for certain improvements in water-closets, part of which improvements is applicable to other useful purposes. April 15.

William Tutin Hayeraft, of Greenwich, doctor of medicine, for improvements in steam engines. April 15.

Charles May, of Ipswich, Suffolk, civil engineer, for improvements in machinery for punching, rivetting, and shearing metal plates. April 15.

Elijah Galloway, of Buckingham-street, Strand, engineer, for improvements in locomotive engines. April 18.

William Heward Bell, of Edmondsley, near Chester-le-street, Durham, for improvements in working coal in coal mines. April 21.

Arthur Phillip Perceval, of East Horsley, Surrey, clerk, for improvements in communicating between places separated by water. April 23.

William Higgs, of Westminster, Middlesex, chemist, for the means of collecting the contents of sewers and drains in cities, towns, and villages, and for treating chemically the same, and applying such contents when so treated to agricultural and other useful purposes. April 28.

Nathan Anthony de Rothschild, of London, merchant, for improvements in heating apartments and buildings. April 28.

William Mather, of Salford, near Manchester, and Colin Mather, of the same place, millwrights and engineers, for improvements in metallic pistons. April 28.

Charles de Bergue, of Arthur-street West, in the city of London, engineer, for improvements in atmospheric railways. April 28.

William Edward Newton, of Chancery-lane, Middlesex, civil engineer, for certain improvements in clocks or time keepers. April 28.

James Timmins Chance, of Handsworth, Stafford, glass manufacturer, and Henry Badger, of West Bromwich, Stafford, glass stainer, for improvements in the manufacture of glass. April 28.

Edward Augustine King, of Warwick-street, Charing-cross, for improvements in the production of magnetic electricity. April 30.

Thomas Lambert, of New Cut, Blackfriars, brass founder, and Charles William Rowley Richards, of Charlotte-street, Blackfriars, engineer, for improvements in cocks for drawing off liquids and gases. April 28.

LICENSE TO VALUE ARTIFICERS' WORK.

Sir,—I shall feel obliged by your informing me whether it is not necessary to take out an appraiser's license, for the valuation and mensuration of artificers' work.

Yours obediently, A. B.

Reading.

*** An Act of Geo. 3 sets forth, not merely that no person shall make a valuation of any dilapidations or repairs wanted, or of the materials and labour used or to be used in any building, or of any artificer's work whatsoever, without an appraiser's license, but that the same shall be made on a stamp, ranging from 2s. 6d. to 20s. This is manifestly unjust in the case of artificers' work, where the surveyor stands simply in the place of the builder, and the bill for so much brickwork, for example, holds precisely the same position as the bill sent out by a draper for so many yards of linen. It appears never to have been acted on. If the bill, when made out, is to appear as a valuation, or as evidence in a court of law, a license should be taken out.

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